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Agenda item 2
Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

Note verbale dated 16 September 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and, with reference to note verbale 279/2015 of the Permanent Mission dated 15 September 2015, has the honour to request that the present note verbale and the comments of the Government of Sri Lanka (see annex)* be circulated as a document of the thirtieth session of the Human Rights Council, and also be posted alongside the report of the Office of the High Commissioner on Sri Lanka (A/HRC/30/61) and the OHCHR investigation on Sri Lanka (see A/HRC/30/CRP.2).

* Reproduced as received, in the language of submission only.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 16 September 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland addressed to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

[English only]

Comments of the Government of Sri Lanka on the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (A/HRC/30/61) and the OHCHR investigation on Sri Lanka (A/HRC/30/CRP.2)

The Government of Sri Lanka,

- Takes note of the Report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/30/61), and the recommendations made by the High Commissioner.
- Is pleased and encouraged by the High Commissioner's recognition of the efforts of the new Government since the Presidential election of 8 January 2015 in dealing with issues of concern for the people of Sri Lanka relating to human rights, rule of law, governance, justice, institutional and legal reform and reconciliation.
- Appreciates the due recognition given to the Government's constructive engagement with the High Commissioner and OHCHR aimed at addressing post-conflict issues that impact on achieving reconciliation.
- Remains firm in its conviction to take all possible measures to ensure non-recurrence in keeping with the mandate given by the people of the country twice this year, 2015, at the Presidential election in January and the Parliamentary election in August.
- Will ensure dialogue and wide consultations with all stakeholders especially the victims of conflict, communities, political parties, civil society representatives, the military as well as the High Commissioner and his Office, bilateral partners, and other international organisations in putting in place mechanisms and measures that will facilitate the right to know, right to justice, reparations and guaranteeing non-recurrence with the aim of achieving reconciliation and durable peace to ensure long-term progress of all her citizens.
- Takes note also of the Report of the OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka (OISL), recognises fully that this Report represents a human rights investigation and not a criminal investigation, and will ensure that its content as well as recommendations receive due attention of the relevant authorities including the new mechanisms that are envisaged to be set up.
- Remains open to continuing its engagement with the High Commissioner and his Office as well as the systems and procedures of the Human Rights Council, aimed at taking steps to safeguard and uphold the human rights of all her citizens.